



Michael Q. Geary
City Clerk

Angela M. Gitschier
Assistant City Clerk

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Date: April 7, 2026

Time: 6:30 PM

Location: City Council Chamber, 375 Merrimack Street, 2nd Floor,
Lowell, MA / Zoom (Hybrid)

1. ROLL CALL

Roll Call showed 11 present (C. Chau, C. Descoteaux, M. Gitschier, C. Juran, C. Liang, C. McDonough, C. Mercier, C. Nuon, C. Robinson, C. Rourke, C. Scott).

M. Gitschier presiding.

2. MAYOR'S BUSINESS

2.1. Communication Remote/Zoom Participation.

In City Council, **Motion** "To accept and place on file" by C. Robinson, seconded by C. Nuon. So voted.

2.2. Proclamation - Motorcycle Safety Awareness.

In City Council, **Motion** "To accept and place on file" by C. Rourke, seconded by C. Scott. So voted. M. Gitschier read the proclamation. Paul Gaudet addressed the Council regarding safety needs.

2.3. Proclamation - National Public Health Week.

In City Council, **Motion** "To accept and place on file" by C. Mercier, seconded by C. McDonough. So voted. C. Mercier commented on the week recognizing the Lowell CO-OP Team and the Health Department. C. Mercier read the proclamation.



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2.4. Presentation - Joseph Jussaume, Lead Teacher for Civics at LHS regarding Lowell Civics Day.

In City Council, **Motion** “To accept and place on file” by C. Descoteaux, seconded by C. Chau. So voted. Mr. Jussaume outlined “Lowell Civics Day” and invited all to the event.

Motion by C. Mercier, seconded by C. Robinson to take Item #6.1A out of order. So voted.

3. CITY CLERK

3.1. Minutes of City Council Regular Meeting March 31st, for acceptance.

In City Council, **Motion** “To accept and place on file” by C. Juran, seconded by C. Liang. So voted.

4. GENERAL PUBLIC HEARINGS (Scheduled for 7PM)

4.1. Ordinance - Amend Fee Schedule – Waste.

In City Council, Given second reading, hearing held. **Motion** to adopt by C. Rourke, seconded by C. Descoteaux. Adopted per Roll Call vote 11 yeas (C. Chau, C. Descoteaux, M. Gitschier, C. Juran, C. Liang, C. McDonough, C. Mercier, C. Nuon, C. Robinson, C. Rourke, C. Scott). So voted.

5. CITY COUNCIL - MOTIONS

5.1. C. Nuon - Req. Mayor Gitschier on behalf of the City Council recognize the month of April as the Sexual Assault Awareness Month, Child Abuse Prevention Month and Victim Rights Month.

In City Council, seconded by C. Rourke, referred to City Manager / Mayor. So voted. C. Nuon noted an event should be staged to recognize the victims and the people who help combat this violence.



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5.2. C. Nuon - Req. the City Mgr. reach out to NMCOG and LRTA to present their findings in their respective reports during a Transportation Sub/Committee meeting.

In City Council, seconded by C. Mercier, referred to City Manager. So voted. C. Nuon noted studies that were done and need to be shared with the Council through subcommittees. C. McDonough noted the need to review the reports and share information. C. Robinson noted study done regarding railway to Nashua. C. Juran stated she was the Council representative on NMCOG and noted materials were available to public.

5.3. C. Nuon - Req. City Mgr. work with DPD to provide the City Council with an assessment of the Vacancy Ordinance compliance in the downtown.

In City Council, seconded by C. Robinson, referred to City Manager. So voted. C. Nuon noted how City promotes business through different programs and that development needs a boost in terms of filling top floors of buildings. C. McDonough noted interest in the enforcement element of the report. C. Robinson noted the value of the ordinance. Manager Golden, Jr. outlined the success of the ordinance. C. McDonough noted top floor development needs programs to rehabilitate elevators in these building.

5.4. C. Nuon - Req. City Mgr. work with proper department to promote Lowell as The 2026 Best City to Live in Massachusetts and Third Best in the Northeast by Livability in order to attract more business, shopping, and tourism to the city.

In City Council, seconded by C. Liang, referred to City Manager. So voted. C. Nuon recommended taking advantage of this good news to promote Lowell outside of the City. C. Mercier noted the article and the benefits of living in Lowell. C. Liang noted Lowell should be a tourism destination.

5.5. C. Liang - Req. Non-Profit Organization Sub/Committee meet to discuss support for services and funding to non-profits in the City.



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In City Council, seconded by C. Mercier, referred to City Manager / Non-Profit Organization SC. So voted. C. Liang noted the concerns of the organizations the need to assist them. C. Mercier requested that the WISH Project be invited to a subcommittee meeting. C. Nuon noted there are new regulations regarding non-profits and that there is new personnel with these groups.

5.6. C. Robinson - Req. City Mgr. have the proper department improve the lighting situation in the area of Billings and Barker Streets.

In City Council, seconded by C. Rourke, referred to City Manager. So voted. C. Robinson noted resident complaints about dumping and poor lighting.

5.7. C. Robinson - Req. City Mgr. have the proper department provide an update on empty lot on Hildreth Street and what long term maintenance plan is in place.

In City Council, seconded by C. Nuon, referred to City Manager. So voted. C. Robinson noted it was a long-standing problem and an eye-sore in the neighborhood. Manager Golden, Jr. noted the property was in Land Court. C. Rourke noted it would be good to know the process in Land Court to redeem the property.

5.8. C. McDonough - Req. City Mgr. have the appropriate department provide a report of any and all fines assessed at 169 Bridge St in relation to the closure of the RiverWalk due to the collapse of a brick facade at that address.

In City Council, seconded by C. Nuon, referred to City Manager. So voted. C. McDonough noted City must do all that can be done to assist with the restoration.



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5.9. C. McDonough / C. Mercier - Req. City Mgr. work with the appropriate department to create a schedule for parking enforcement in school zones.

In City Council, no second needed, referred to City Manager. So voted. C. McDonough noted enforcement must be enhanced. C. Mercier commented on sidewalks going in that area may not be popular but are needed for safety reasons and that the public should adhere to all parking regulations in that area. C. Scott noted that the enforcement area for department has been enlarged. C. Descoteaux noted need for sidewalks and that the public must be educated as to parking in that area. **Motion** by C. Robinson, seconded by C. Scott to allow Sandra McNamara to address the Council. So voted. Ms. McNamara noted a drop off zone may reduce parking violations in these areas. C. Liang noted the need to address parking issues at schools.

5.10. M. Gitschier - Req. City Mgr. have the DPW trash enforcement department over the next few months during the spring start at 5am and enforce the waste policies Citywide.

In City Council, seconded by C. Robinson, referred to City Manager. So voted. M. Gitschier relinquished the Chair to Vice-Chair Nuon at 7:29 PM. M. Gitschier noted schedule needs to be adjusted to catch violations. Manager Golden, Jr. noted that could be done and it would involve discussion with the union. C. Scott noted that when fees are increased then they should apply to all; including fines. C. McDonough noted fines can prevent bad behavior. Chair returned to M. Gitschier at 7:34 PM.

5.11. M. Gitschier - Req. the City Mgr. update the City Council on the status of the summer recreation program. This program is time sensitive.

In City Council, seconded by C. Robinson, referred to City Manager. So voted. C. Juran noted the late notice of change but indicated there is a budget issue present and that perhaps fees could be looked at for next year. Manager Golden, Jr. noted the budget issue was serious and that



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program will be open for 3-4-year-olds this year but fees may be present in the future. C. Nuon noted tight budget with possible layoffs. C. Robinson noted the importance of the program and that in the future and recreational enterprise fund would be established.

6. COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY MANAGER

6.1. Motion Responses.

A) Motion Response - Happy to Chat Bench - In City Council, **Motion** "To accept and place on file" by C. McDonough, seconded by C. Robinson. So voted. C. McDonough recognized the Senior Center for their assistance.

Motion by C. Mercie, seconded by C. Nuon to take Item 6.2 Informational Report - LHS Structural Remediation out of order. So voted.

B) Motion Response - Board of Parks - In City Council, **Motion** "To accept and place on file" by C. Nuon, seconded by C. Mercier. So voted. C. Robinson noted the updates.

C) Motion Response - 4-Way Stop Intersection Fletcher and Bowers St. - In City Council, **Motion** "To accept and place on file" by C. Juran, seconded by C. Descoteaux. So voted. C. Liang noted the signs were in a good location.

D) Motion Response - Watson and Lawrence St. - In City Council, **Motion** "To accept and place on file" by C. Nuon, seconded by C. Rourke. So voted. C. McDonough noted this was good news.

E) Motion Response - Westford and Steadman St. - In City Council, **Motion** "To accept and place on file" by C. Juran, seconded by C. Liang. So voted. C. Descoteaux noted that there are still complaints regarding backups but that all remedies have been attempted.

F) Motion Response - Reconsideration of Greater Lowell Voke Lottery - In City Council, **Motion** "To accept and place on file" by C. Scott,



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seconded by C. Chau. So voted. C. McDonough noted the information in the letter. C. Juran noted request was to develop a different policy and not revert back to old one.

G) Motion Response - ICE Operations - In City Council, **Motion** “To accept and place on file” by C. Robinson, seconded by C. Liang. So voted. Registered speaker, Marcos Candido (comment - not satisfied with response and the ICE cannot be trusted and that their operations are questionable). C. McDonough noted it was a good response and that it answered his questions. C. McDonough noted schools have a more stringent policy. C. Juran valued the report and noted that there is frustration with the federal level. C. Juran noted City has no requirement to assist ICE with federal immigration and that policy may need updating. C. Mercier noted that the Lowell Police have no records for ICE and do not have oversight of the federal operation. C. Nuon noted frustration with treatment of people and the illegal actions of ICE. Manager Golden, Jr. noted that there has been no request from ICE and that the City does work with other agencies regarding criminal endeavors. C. Chau supported the police and the response, noting the trust that police and community have built. Superintendent Hudon (LPD) noted ICE provides no information to the department and that they are only involved with other agencies for criminal matters and not ICE detainers. C. Liang noted the police need to protect the community. C. Robinson noted the policy may have to be modified for further protection of the community. C. Robinson noted any policy would not be effective because ICE would not follow it. C. McDonough noted that ICE must inform the public. **Motion** by C. Scott, seconded by C. McDonough to request Law Department review and update if needed current policies regarding ICE. So voted.

H) Motion Response - Noise Ordinance - In City Council, **Motion** “To accept and place on file” by C. Mercier, seconded by C. Liang. So voted. C. Nuon noted it is important to enforce to ensure quality of life. C. Juran noted the need to inform residents of the ordinance. C. Mercier questioned if there were decibel meters available.

I) Motion Response - Civil Service - In City Council, **Motion** “To accept



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and place on file” by C. Liang, seconded by C. Rourke. So voted. C. Nuon commented on outreach and training for the test and the departments should be representative of the community. C. Robinson lauded the efforts of the public safety departments to promote diversity.

J) Motion Response - Ordinance Wage History - In City Council, **Motion** “To accept and place on file” by C. Robinson, seconded by C. Nuon. So voted. **Motion** by C. Robinson, seconded by C. Nuon to refer matter to Finance SC. So voted. C. Juran questioned what a confidential employee was. Conor Baldwin (CFO) provided that information.

6.2. Informational Reports

Informational Report - LHS Structural Remediation - In City Council, **Motion** “To accept and place on file” by C. Descoteaux, seconded by C. Juran. So voted. Manager Golden, Jr. noted the report and the cost to remediate at around \$300,000.00

Informational Report - Appleton Street Project - In City Council, **Motion** “To accept and place on file” by C. Nuon, seconded by C. Mercier. So voted. Elizabeth Oltman (Transportation Engineer) noted that grant money will improve the safety of this dangerous intersection. C. Juran questioned the effect the construction may have on businesses. Ms. Oltman described the project. C. McDonough noted it was a bad intersection that needs these safety improvements. C. Scott noted it was a good project for the area.

Motion by C. Rourke, seconded by C. Nuon to take Item #7.4 out of order. So voted.

7. VOTES FROM THE CITY MANAGER

7.1. Vote - Accept Gift of \$30k from All People Church.

In City Council, Given 2nd reading. **Motion** “To Adopt” by C. Nuon, seconded by C. Mercier. Adopted per Roll Call vote 11 yeas (C. Chau, C. Descoteaux, M. Gitschier, C. Juran, C. Liang, C. McDonough, C. Mercier,



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C. Nuon, C. Robinson, C. Rourke, C. Scott). So voted. C. Mercier noted that the new church in this area was impressive.

7.2. Vote - Accept/Expend \$19,674.59 EOPSS Firefighter Safety Equipment Grant.

In City Council, Given 2nd reading. **Motion** "To Adopt" by C. Mercier, seconded by C. Rourke. Adopted per Roll Call vote 11 yeas (C. Chau, C. Descoteaux, M. Gitschier, C. Juran, C. Liang, C. McDonough, C. Mercier, C. Nuon, C. Robinson, C. Rourke, C. Scott). So voted.

7.3. Vote - Apply/Accept/Expend \$173,157 Community Biodiversity Grant.

In City Council, Given 2nd reading. **Motion** "To Adopt" by C. Robinson, seconded by C. McDonough. Adopted per Roll Call vote 10 yeas (C. Chau, C. Descoteaux, M. Gitschier, C. Juran, C. Liang, C. McDonough, C. Mercier, C. Robinson, C. Rourke, C. Scott), 1 absent (C. Nuon). So voted. C. Robinson noted how this grant was developed.

7.4. Vote - Apply/Accept/Expend \$4,745,366 MassDOT Grant.

In City Council, Given 2nd reading. **Motion** "To Adopt" by C. Rourke, seconded by C. Nuon. Adopted per Roll Call vote 11 yeas (C. Chau, C. Descoteaux, M. Gitschier, C. Juran, C. Liang, C. McDonough, C. Mercier, C. Nuon, C. Robinson, C. Rourke, C. Scott). So voted.

8. REPORTS (SUB/COMMITTEE, IF ANY)

8.1. Economic Development SC April 7, 2026.

In City Council, C. Robinson requested to move matter to following week. No objections.

8.2. Wire Inspector Reports: Boston Gas Co. dba National Grid req. to replace existing gas main w/approx. 1,580ft. of 6" plastic main in portions of Sayles St. & Middlesex St., req. to install approx. 30ft. of 4"



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gas main in Willie St. extending 24" cast iron main in Dutton St. to service units at 6 Wiggins St., Mass Electric Co. dba National Grid and Verizon NE req. to install 1 JO pole Washer St., req. to install 1 JO pole Lawrence St., req. to install 3 JO poles Wood St., req. to install 1 JO pole on Agawam St., req. to install 1 JO pole on Varnum Ave., req. to install 1 JO pole on Wilder St., req. to install 1 JO pole on Nesmith St. of the intersection of E. Merrimack St., req. to install 1 JO pole on Nesmith St., of the intersection of Rogers St.

In City Council, **Motion** "To adopt and accept the accompanying orders" by C. Nuon, seconded by C. Descoteaux. So voted. Registered speaker, Jonathan Grossman (comment - National Grid must follow protocol to save costs to the rate payers).

9. PETITIONS

9.1. Claim - (1) Property Damage.

In City Council, **Motion** to refer to Law Department for report and recommendation by C. Rourke, seconded by C. Descoteaux. So voted.

10. CITY COUNCIL - EXECUTIVE SESSION

10.1. Executive Session - To Consider And Discuss The Purchase, Exchange, Lease, Or Value Of Real Property (The Senior Center, 276 Broadway Street), Public Discussion Of Which May Have A Detrimental Effect On The Negotiating Position Of The City.

In City Council, M. Gitschier stated purpose of the session, **Motion** to enter executive session and adjourn from that session by C. Robinson, seconded by C. McDonough. (9:02 PM). Adopted per Roll Call vote 11 yeas (C. Chau, C. Descoteaux, M. Gitschier, C. Juran, C. Liang, C. McDonough, C. Mercier, C. Nuon, C. Robinson, C. Rourke, C. Scott). So voted.

11. ANNOUNCEMENTS

In City Council, none.



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12. ADJOURNMENT

In City Council, **Motion** to Adjourn from Executive Session by C. Chau, seconded by C. Scott. So voted.

Meeting adjourned from Executive Session at 9:30 PM.

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